

Wrap-Around Resources for Homeless

East Allen County Schools are Making it Happen!



WE ARE

East Allen County Schools (EACS) is located in Northeast Indiana serving students in grades PK-12.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Our school population consists of 9,476 students. Just over 50% of our students receive free/reduced lunch and 13.2% are English Language Learners. The number of students in our district identified as homeless is on the rise.

OUR TEACHERS

The 576 teachers in our district help build relationships with students and families, identify students who may be experiencing homelessness, and develop supports and interventions to boost student success.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

EACS employs a full-time Homeless Student Liaison through Title I and McKinney Vento Grant funds. The liaison works closely with schools, families, and community partners to ensure that all homeless students receive the supports needed to overcome their unique barriers to academic success. The liaison accesses community resources to provide students with school supplies, clothing, household items, and connections to shelters and other essential programs. Our liaison works closely with EACS Transportation Department to expedite rapidly-changing transportation needs. As the 10th largest geographic district in the state, transportation is often a priority service need. The liaison also works with school counselors, teachers, community mental health providers, and district interpreters to make sure homeless students get full access to the services they need while they are going through the most challenging of times. It is truly a team effort!

OUR STEPS

Students are referred to the Homeless Liaison based on information provided on enrollment forms and conversations held with caring staff members. The liaison meets with students and families to confirm their living situation appropriately meets the definition of "homeless" under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

"Educating school personnel on the actual McKinney-Vento definition of "homeless" has made a huge difference in our ability to properly identify and serve students. This education has heightened our District's sensitivity to our students and has ensured students get the help they need!"

~Catherine Rouyes, EACS Homeless Student Liaison
(Catherine is pictured in the photo above)

For more information about our District's program, contact Catherine Rouyes (EACS Homeless Student Liaison) crouyes@eacs.k12.in.us or visit [www. EACS.k12.in.us](http://www.EACS.k12.in.us)